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CENTRAL INTELLIGENCE AGENCY
INFORMATION REPORT

COUNTRY French Cameroons

SUBJECT Duala, Port Information

PLACE ACQUIRED
(BY SOURCE)

DATE ACQUIRED
(BY SOURCE)

25X1A

DATE (OF INFO.)

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SOURCE Officer of a US merchant ship.

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1. Hydrography: The channels are being dredged continuously and the pilots say that 23 feet is the maximum draft for vessels during high water.
2. Berthing Facilities: The new dock extension is almost completed, and four ships can now be berthed there. When it is completed there will be room for seven ships at the new wharf, making a total berthing space for 11 ships at Duala, exclusive of the fruit pier at Bonaberi. The wharf at Bonaberi is also being extended to provide berthing space for three ships.
3. Storage and Handling Facilities: On the new extension at Duala four new warehouses are in various stages of completion. They are approximately 100 meters long by 50 meters deep. They open directly onto the stringpiece which is constructed by poured cement and is about 100 feet wide. The offshore side of each warehouse opens onto a loading platform for direct loading into trucks or railway cars. A railroad siding runs to each warehouse. Between the warehouses and the port limits there is open storage ranging from 200 to 1000 feet deep. The area is mostly of poured concrete and is serviced by numerous railroad tracks. More warehouses may be constructed in time should the traffic so require. A new log storage yard is being developed at the northern end of the new wharf extension. This will be serviced by a travelling overhead crane of at least 5-ton capacity.
4. New Bridge: A road and rail bridge is under construction between Bonaberi and Duala. When completed it will enable trade from the northern Cameroons to use the port of Duala to a greater extent than at present. This bridge is expected to be completed in 1954.

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